

# **The Westford Recycling Commission asks: Want to do something about tax expenditures for trash?**

**One thing every household can do immediately is throw out less trash and recycle and compost as much as possible!**

## **How would this help reduce tax expenditures?**

- Your tax dollars pay **\$616,678** to collect trash in FY2014.
- And OVER and ABOVE the cost of annual trash collection, Westford is charged approximately **\$73** for every ton of the **7900** tons of our trash that goes to the incinerator. That's another **\$553,000** your tax dollars pay.
- Your tax dollars pay **\$244,800** to collect recyclables in FY 2014.
- There is **NO additional cost** to taxpayers for collecting tons more recyclables.
- There is **NO limit** to how much you can recycle.

## **The Bottom Line**

- The more that gets recycled or composted and eliminated from trash, the less it costs us taxpayers.
- The Town could save **\$55,300** per year by reducing trash tonnage by **10%**. That amounts to every household lowering trash by only **4** pounds a week!

## **Recycling is Easy**

- **No sorting of recyclables!** Throw all recyclables in the same container and put it out with your trash on the days recycling is scheduled for pick up.
- Recycle plastic bottles (including caps and labels) with a recycling symbol #1-7 (except Styrofoam), glass bottles (clear or colored), cans, aluminum foil (including aluminum plates and pans), paper, cardboard (flattened, 3x3 ft. max), pizza boxes (no pizza!).
- You can use a regular recycling toter or bin, or any barrel for recyclables. Pick up a free "Recycle" sticker at the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall for your barrel.
- To purchase your own wheeled 64-gallon recycling toter, send a check for \$45 to the Recycling Commission, 55 Main Street, and you will be contacted for pickup.
- Recycling is mandated in Westford. If you do not recycle on your recycling day, your trash will not be picked up. Leave your recycling bin/toter out until the trash collector has gone by.

## **What else can you do to decrease your trash?**

- Reduce what you throw in the trash by composting your non-meat food scraps. To purchase an Earth Machine composter at a discounted price of \$45, please contact recycling volunteer Denise at 978-692-6986.

## **Questions?**

Find answers to your recycling questions at our website [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](http://www.westfordma.gov/recycling), send a note via E-mail to :[recycling@westfordma.gov](mailto:recycling@westfordma.gov) or call a volunteer on the Recycling Commission: Ellen 978-692-2039 - Sue 978-692-1027 - Kris 978-692-2887 - Alan 978-692-1105 - Barbara 978-692-5177 - Charles 617-251-7216 - Cynthia 978-692-5462

***The Westford Recycling Commission thanks you for recycling, reducing, and reusing!***